

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 1 (page 15, line 1 of the Third Preliminary Amendment dated November 13, 2001) with the following re-written paragraph:

C1
--Claw members 3 are movably mounted on an ~~upper surface~~ (upper surface section) of upper block 10. Four bolt holes 2a are located in the corner areas of lower block 20. Four bolts (not shown) are insertable into bolt holes 2a to secure base member 2 to the table (not shown) of a machine tool (not shown) to support lower block 20. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 20 (page 16 of the Third Preliminary Amendment) with the following rewritten paragraph:

C2
--Worm gear mechanism 5 ~~in horizontal hole 21~~ includes a worm gear 40 and a worm wheel 41 meshing with the worm gear 40. During assembly, inner ends of input shaft members 4 are inserted into worm gear 40. A key member 26, links input shaft members 4 to worm gear 40 to prevent their relative rotation. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 27 (page 16 of the Third Preliminary Amendment) with the following rewritten paragraph:

C3
--Worm gear mechanism 5, mounted inside base member 2, includes a worm gear 40, which rotates integrally with input shaft members 4 ~~in mesh with a worm wheel 41~~.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 10 (page 17 of the Third Preliminary Amendment) with the following rewritten paragraph:

C4
--Second gear mechanism 6 includes a threaded hole 45 formed concentric ~~with~~ with a center of worm wheel 41. ~~During assembly, screw~~ Screw shaft member 46 is screwed into threaded hole 45. A bolt 47 is inserted in the center of screw shaft member 46 with the threaded section of bolt 47 projecting upward beyond screw shaft member 46 to link into conversion member 50 of conversion mechanism 7 so that screw shaft member 46 and conversion member 50 are ~~fixed~~ linked together in a fixed manner.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 22 (page 17 of the Third Preliminary Amendment) with the following rewritten paragraph:

C5
--Conversion mechanism 7 changes the direction of the axial drive force transferred ~~by to~~ to screw shaft member 46, thereby transferring this force symmetrically to left-right force on claw members 3. The conversion mechanism 7 includes a conversion member 50, sloped engagement grooves 51 and a pair of engagement sections 52.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 5 (page 18 of the Third Preliminary Amendment) with the following rewritten paragraph:

C6
--Claw members 3 each include engagement sections 52 which slidably engage with sloped engagement grooves 51. Each engagement section 52 engages with its respective sloped engagement groove 51, thereby preventing conversion member 50 from rotating relative to base member 2. Since each engagement section 52 engages with each sloped engagement groove 51 on conversion member 50, claw members 3 operate simultaneously to capture or release workpiece W.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 11 (page 18 of the Third Preliminary Amendment) with the following rewritten paragraph:

C7
--In one particular embodiment of the present invention, sloped engagement grooves 51 are sloped at approximately 70 degrees relative to the direction of motion of claw members 3 (the horizontal direction). During operation, as engagement grooves ~~50-51~~ move lower relative to a top surface of upper block 10, ~~they~~ claw members 3 move further from the axial center of conversion member 50.--